

House Bill 582 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representative Shaw of the 176<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the Small Claims Court of Lanier County, now the Magistrate  
2 Court of Lanier County, approved April 6, 1981 (Ga. L. 1981, p. 3452), so as to provide that  
3 on and after January 1, 2009, the probate judge shall serve as chief magistrate of the  
4 Magistrate Court of Lanier County; to provide for the number and method of appointment  
5 for magistrates serving in such court; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws;  
6 and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act creating the Small Claims Court of Lanier County, now the Magistrate Court of  
10 Lanier County, approved April 6, 1981 (Ga. L. 1981, p. 3452), is amended by revising  
11 Sections 2 and 3 as follows:

12 "SECTION 2.

13 Pursuant to subsection (g) of Code Section 15-10-20 of the O.C.G.A., the chief magistrate  
14 of the Magistrate Court of Lanier County shall not be separately elected for any term of  
15 office that begins on or after January 1, 2009, but on and after that date, the probate judge  
16 of Lanier County shall serve as the chief magistrate of the Magistrate Court of Lanier  
17 County.

18 **SECTION 3.**

19 On and after July 1, 2007, the number of magistrates to serve as judges of the Magistrate  
20 Court of Lanier County shall be determined by the Lanier County Board of  
21 Commissioners. Such magistrates shall be selected by the probate judge and shall be  
22 appointed to take office on January 1, 2009. Such magistrates shall serve four-year terms  
23 and until their respective successors are appointed and qualified."

1 **SECTION 2.**

2 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2007.

3 **SECTION 3.**

4 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.